Nadu and Karnataka and Pondicherry sit across the table and find an amicable solution to this problem *(Interruptions)*.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh) Madam, he is...*(Interruptions)*.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: What is this? Sit down. What is this going on? Are you speaking to him or speaking to the Chair? Are you sitting in a street or in the House? If you want to speak to him, please go into the lobby and talk to him. If you want to raise anything in the House, there is a certain procedure. You cannot just get up and start speaking like this. The same thing I have told other Members. If you want to speak, please ask me. I will permit you. I was even permitting other Members to speak even though the Chairman has not given permission for any association on this. This is not the way to speak in this House. Please sit down.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam, my last submission is...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No more submissions. It is over. Let me move to other subjects.

SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Madam, water has to flow. But where is the water? When there is no water to flow, I think, it is better to stop this discussion at this point of time.

डा० जगन्नाथ मिश्रः मैडम,...

उपसभापतिः मैंने आपका नाम लिस्ट में लिख लिया है। जिनके नाम लिस्ट में पहले लिखे हुये हैं, उनको पहले बोलना है। मैं उसके बाद आपको बुला लूंगी।

Let us run this House on certain rules. If we run this House on certain rules, everybody will be satisfied, I hope so, and keep their commitments towards their constituencies. We can run it in a proper order. If you go on speaking like this, we would not be able to do any business. Thank you very much. Shri Onward L. Nongtdu. He is talking about floods.

RE: FLOODS IN PLAIN AREAS OF MEGHALAYA AND ITS MAIN CAUSE

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU (Meghalaya): Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and this august House towards the ongoing floods in the plain areas of my State, Meghalaya, particularly in one of the districts known as West Garo Hills district. These areas have been affected by floods whenever there is flood in the Assam Valley, almost every year during the monsoon season. I have no intention to raise in this House anything about the extent of damages caused by floods in these areas. But I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the main cause of floods in the plain areas of Meghalaya in particular and the North East in general.

According to the statistics of the State Government 44.5 per cent of the total area of Meghalaya is covered with forests and out of this forest area 4.2 per cent area falls either under reserve forest or protected forest or national parks. Therefore, the real forest area is only about 10 per cent of the total area of the State and 3.42 per cent is just for record sake and nothing else. These forests have been destroyed either for sale of timber or for jhooming.

Cherrapunji, which is known as the wettest place on the earth receiving an average rainfall of 500 inches a year, is, at the same time, the driest place in the North-East. The whole area has been made bare by human greed for easy wealth, that is complete deforestation for timber, firewood and mining of coal during the last 100 years or so. Rainfall is still heavy but is does not spread throughout the season.

There are torrential rains from time to time and sometimes it rains four to five times in a day, destroying the top soil and damaging everything. The water races down towards the plains. Every drop of water goes down leaving the area withoug water despite there being a

heavy rainfall. Madam, the matter is serious and needs immediate attention. It is a question of survival in that part of the country. The scene is the same in all the States in the North-East. Rainfall is there everywhere, but at irregular intervals. The hill tops are bare and the rain water carries everything down causing floods in the plain areas of my State. The impact is also felt by Assam. But the worst affected is our neighbour, Bangladesh.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Excuse me Mr. Nongtdu.The Chairman allowed you to speak on Meghalaya. We are going to have a full-fledged discussion on the flood situation in the country in this House after a few days. At that time, I feel, you can make different points. I am trying to explain because there are some new Members and they should know the procedure. When permission is granted by the Chairman for a Zero Hour submission or for a Special Mention, it is to draw the attention of the Government to a situation arising out of a certain happening. If there are floods in Meghalaya and the situation is serious, then you can draw the attention of the Government so that it can take some corrective or helpful measures. But the whole system and why there are floods can be discussed in the Calling Attention Motion or the Short duration discussion, whichever is taken up. You can mention only Meghalaya....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANADES (Goa): There is not even one Cabinet Minister in the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): They are in a Cabinet meeting. They will be coming soon.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am trying to explain to the new Members the procedures of this House. Now, Mr. Nongtdu, you can formulate your speech accordingly.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Madam, my intention is to draw the attention of the Government to this issue. The State Government is shy of taking up stringent measures to preserve forests in the area due to various reasons. Therefore, I feel, the Central Government should no longer remain a passive observer. The Central Government should take immediate steps to stop deforestation in my state, that is, Meghalaya and other areas in the North-East. This is my main submission. I implore upon the Government to take immediate steps to check floods in those areas. Thank you.

RE. BAN ON NEW LPG AND DOUBLE CYLINDER CONNECTIONS

श्री बंगारु लक्ष्मण (गुजरात): उपसभापति महोदया, आपके माध्यम से मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस विषय की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि इस महीने की 18 तारीख को पैट्रोलियम मिनिस्ट्री के आॅयल कम्पनी के एक प्रतिनिधि ने अखबारों में यह बताया है कि एल०पी०जी० कनेक्शन्स पर बैन लग गया है।

1 तारीख जुलाई से यह बैन अमल में आएगा, यह बात उन्होंने कही है। इस कारण से बहुत से लोग जिन्होंने एल०पी०जी० के लिए अपना नाम लिखाया है, रजिस्ट्रेशन करवाया है, वेटिंग में हैं, वे परेशान हैं। पेट्रोलियम मिनिस्टर ने परसों मद्रास में एक प्रेस वक्तव्य में कहा है कि 1 करोड़ 35 लाख लोग एल०पी०जी० की वेटिंग लिस्ट में हैं। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि इस वर्ष, 1996 में 20 लाख कनेक्शन दिए जायेंगे। मैं आपका ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि 1996 के बारे में पिछले मंत्री केप्टेन सतीश शर्मा जी ने एक वक्तव्य दिया था, जिसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि एल०पी०जी० के 1996 में 40 लाख कनेक्शन होंगे जब कि नये मंत्री ने कहा है कि 20 लाख होंगे और तीसरी तरफ यह कहा जा रहा है, पेट्रोलियम कंपनी के एक प्रतिनिधि द्वारा कि अब बैन लगाया गया है। वास्तविकता क्या है, इसकी क्या एक्चुअल पोजीशन है यह बताना बहुत आवश्यक है। नहीं तो इसके कारण बहुत बड़ी गड़बड़ी हो सकती है। आपको मालूम है यह एल०पी०जी० जो है यह रसोई का सबसे सस्ता माध्यम है और इसीलिए बहुत से लोग, आम आदमी और विशेषतः